

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2005

Domestic primary aluminum production in January was 206,065 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,647 t, 2% lower than that of the previous month and 5% below the rate for January 2004. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to 89.75 cents per pound in January 2005 from 90.95 cents per pound in December 2004, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) rose a total of a penny in January 2005. The buying price began the month at 63–65 cents per pound. On January 5, the price range narrowed to 64–65 cents per pound. On January 11, the price range widened to 64–66 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

2004 U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in 2004 increased 14% compared with those of 2003. Imports were higher in all three categories detailed in table 6: Metal and alloys increased 13%, semifabricated materials increased 14%, and aluminum scrap imports increased 22%. Canada remained the largest

shipper of aluminum materials to the United States, supplying more than half of total U.S. imports in 2004. Russia followed a distant second supplying 20% of the 2004 imports.

Total aluminum exports in 2004 increased 18% compared with those of 2003. Canada, China, and Mexico were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for more than 80% of total U.S. exports in 2004. Mexico was the largest recipient of metal and alloys (50%); Canada was the largest recipient of semifabricated materials (61%); and China was the largest recipient of aluminum scrap exports in 2004 (48%).

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased significantly to 92.125 cents per pound in February from 89.750 cents per pound in January. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs continued to increase during February. On February 17, the price range increased to 65–67 cents per pound, and on February 23, it increased again to 67–69 cents per pound. The price range remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2004 ^P	2,520	1,830	1,200	3,020	3,250	938	4,180	9,720	1,470
2004:									
January	216	151	94	245	211	64	274	735	1,440
February	202	155	83	238	288	69	356	797	1,430
March	217	161	100	261	248	76	324	801	1,420
April	209	152	102	253	254	72	326	788	1,440
May	217	156	102	258	282	76	357	832	1,430
June	204	142	102	244	309	80	389	838	1,440
July	209	151 ^r	99 ^r	250 ^r	297	80	377	837	1,490
August	210	158	107 ^r	265 ^r	225	87	312	786	1,470
September	203	152	105	257	279	84	364	824	1,420
October	211	159 ^r	106 ^r	265	286	84	370	846	1,390
November	207	150	103	253	272	84	356	816	1,420
December	211	139	94	233	294	82	377	821	1,470
2005:									
January	206	157	102	259	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
2004 ^P	1,680	1,240	754	668	1,080	1,010	110	98	5	5	3,630	3,020
2004:												
January	133	99	57	51	90	84	11	10	(2)	(2)	292	245
February	133	98	50	45	90	85	11	10	1	1	285	238
March	146	108	64	57	92	86	11	10	(2)	(2)	313	261
April	141	105	65	57	89	83	9	8	(2)	(2)	304	253
May	140	103	68	60	93	87	8	7	1	1	310	258
June	135	100	62	55	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	294	244
July	136	99	66	58	91	85	8	7	(2)	(2)	301	250
August	147	109	67	60	95	89	8	7	(2)	(2)	318	265
September	143	105	67	59	91	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	309	257
October	148	110	64	56	97	91	9	8	(2)	(2)	319	265
November	146	108	64	56	87	81	9	8	(2)	(2)	306	253
December	133	98	61	54	78	73	8	7	(2)	(2)	281	233
2005:												
January	151	110	63	55	92	86	9	8	(2)	(2)	314	259

^PPreliminary.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JANUARY 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	125,000	151,000	91,900	110,000
Integrated aluminum companies	62,600	62,600	55,300	55,300
Independent mill fabricators	76,400	91,700	71,400	85,700
Foundries	7,190	8,630	6,370	7,650
Other consumers	358	429	358	429
Total	272,000	314,000	225,000	259,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP
AND SWEATED PIG IN JANUARY 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ²	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Extrusion	14,800	53,400	54,500	13,700
Can stock clippings	2,230	25,200	25,100	2,370
Other wrought sheet/clippings	8,190	26,600	26,300	8,420
Casting	1,330	6,810	6,990	1,150
Borings and turnings	4,370 ^r	18,100	17,700	4,750
Dross and skimmings	5,010	36,300	36,300	5,080
Total new scrap	35,900 ^r	166,000	167,000	35,400
Old scrap:				
Used castings	6,580	12,800	12,900	6,500
Used extrusions	42	257	257	42
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	5,700 ^r	64,300	62,600	7,440
Other wrought products	5,630	17,400	17,400	5,630
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,560 ^r	11,400	11,300	2,600
Total old scrap	20,500 ^r	106,000	104,000	22,200
Sweated pig	78	768	775	71
Total all classes	56,500 ^r	273,000	272,000	57,700

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,260 ^r	1,760	1,440	3,590
380 and variations	6,810 ^r	20,200	19,600	7,420
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,540 ^r	4,010	4,020	2,530
No. 319 and variations	4,680 ^r	10,300	9,860	5,140
F-132 alloy and variations	1,260	2,390	2,460	1,180
Al-Zn alloys	223	150	147	226
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	3	3	39
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50	381	381	50
Other ³	5,280	6,190	6,260	5,200
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	10,200	21,700	21,700	10,200
Total all alloys	34,300 ^r	67,000	65,800	35,500
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,540	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,090	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	719	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	53,700	XX	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁴No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2004¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Argentina	8,090	75,400	6	583	--	204	8,090	76,200
Australia	6,070	65,100	5	87	--	35	6,070	65,200
Bahrain	--	2,670	1,460	13,100	--	--	1,460	15,800
Belgium	--	688	1,110	11,600	--	--	1,110	12,300
Brazil	26,600	226,000	2,470	31,700	--	4,770	29,100	262,000
Canada	116,000	1,660,000	37,500	489,000	25,600	353,000	179,000	2,500,000
China	1,870	13,900	5,320	52,800	--	230	7,200	67,000
France	2	2,610	795	7,770	20	271	817	10,600
Germany	97	4,380	7,740	81,500	57	933	7,890	86,800
Ghana	--	1,830	--	--	--	--	--	1,830
Hungary	--	--	17	2,980	--	--	17	2,980
Italy	--	450	281	2,030	--	--	281	2,480
Japan	61	1,750	1,530	12,100	68	569	1,660	14,500
Korea, Republic of	--	68	447	3,380	--	29	447	3,480
Mexico	--	1,260	1,590	21,400	5,920	84,700	7,520	107,000
Netherlands	82	1,110	176	2,840	--	229	258	4,180
Norway	3,270	4,110	(2)	121	--	5	3,270	4,240
Russia	109,000	904,000	3,130	37,600	--	9,860	113,000	952,000
South Africa	4,480	40,000	3,550	36,100	--	--	8,030	76,100
Spain	17	114	372	1,730	--	--	389	1,850
Sweden	--	1,300	296	3,640	--	188	296	5,130
Switzerland	--	(2)	510	4,220	--	--	510	4,220
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	57	--	57
United Arab Emirates	5,460	54,300	78	79	113	487	5,660	54,800
United Kingdom	33	6,340	252	2,870	385	4,360	669	13,600
Venezuela	9,450	138,000	1,230	19,900	2,520	20,300	13,200	178,000
Other	3,460	43,100	12,400	98,600	3,580	55,300	19,500	197,000
Total	294,000	3,250,000	82,300	938,000	38,200	535,000	415,000	4,720,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2004¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Australia	26	164	122	2,080	--	8	149	2,250
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	3
Belgium	36	493	407	5,530	--	61	443	6,090
Brazil	37	1,120	756	11,600	18	78	811	12,800
Canada	10,300	132,000	34,600	523,000	11,500	142,000	56,400	797,000
China	2	454	4,090	36,200	31,300	314,000	35,400	350,000
Czech Republic	--	1	142	287	--	--	142	288
Dominican Republic	13	23	58	693	--	4	71	720
France	18	124	404	6,220	--	176	421	6,520
Germany	60	439	339	4,640	--	245	399	5,320
Hong Kong	4	95	980	9,180	543	10,800	1,530	20,000
India	15	152	16	319	307	5,620	339	6,090
Israel	143	1,210	158	2,160	--	19	301	3,390
Italy	(2)	228	162	2,060	--	42	163	2,330
Japan	166	5,170	931	7,400	1,890	23,300	2,980	35,900
Korea, Republic of	146	809	1,270	16,500	6,610	54,300	8,020	71,600
Malaysia	--	14	59	1,090	41	94	100	1,200
Mexico	16,300	150,000	12,300	162,000	3,760	38,100	32,300	350,000
Netherlands	2	365	90	744	--	222	92	1,330
Russia	--	5	1	27	--	--	1	32
Saudi Arabia	--	29	2,920	17,400	--	(2)	2,920	17,400
Singapore	8	215	58	1,680	--	362	66	2,260
Spain	(2)	126	48	781	256	1,990	305	2,890
Sweden	--	--	124	382	--	--	124	382
Taiwan	18	641	559	5,900	3,180	39,200	3,760	45,700
Tajikistan	--	--	--	84	--	--	--	84
Thailand	9	172	1,780	5,090	751	4,920	2,540	10,200
Ukraine	--	--	(2)	(2)	--	--	(2)	(2)
United Kingdom	59	833	983	11,700	10	165	1,050	12,700
Venezuela	--	20	79	1,650	--	3	79	1,670
Other	84	3,350	2,200	21,700	2,210	24,400	4,500	49,500
Total	27,400	298,000	65,600	857,000	62,300	660,000	155,000	1,820,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.